

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A card guide for use as part of a card cage and configured to interact with corresponding structure of an electronic equipment enclosure configured to receive one or more functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the card guide comprising:

a body having top and bottom sides and an end;

a plurality of engagement elements configured to engage the corresponding structure of the electronic equipment enclosure so that when the card guide is completely installed in the electronic equipment enclosure, the card guide is attached to the electronic equipment enclosure in a fastenerless arrangement, at least one engagement element being attached to each of the top and bottom sides of the body and the end of the body.

2. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the engagement elements is configured to permanently engage the corresponding structure of the electronic equipment enclosure.

3. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one engagement element attached to the top side of the body is configured to operably interact with a self clinching tie mount.

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4. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the card guide substantially comprises one of: polycarbonate; and, a composition of carbon and polytetrafluoroethylene.

5. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the engagement elements is integral with the body of the card guide.

6. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the body defines at least one channel configured and arranged to receive an edge of a card when the card guide is installed in the electronic equipment enclosure.

7. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the body is configured to removably receive an adapter element, selective use of the adapter element facilitating definition of at least first and second card storage configurations.

8. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the body defines a plurality of channels on at least one side, so as to facilitate definition of a plurality of card storage levels.

9. The card guide as recited in claim 1, wherein the card guide is configured for use in both vertical and horizontal card cages.

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10. In an electronic equipment enclosure configured to receive one or more functional modules having a corresponding card, the electronic equipment enclosure further configured to house a card cage system comprising a plurality of card guides, a fastenerless connection system for use in attaching the card cage system to the electronic equipment enclosure and comprising:

a plurality of engagement elements, the plurality of engagement elements being comprising a portion of one of: the plurality of card guides; and, the electronic equipment enclosure; and

corresponding structure configured to interact with the plurality of engagement elements, the corresponding structure comprising a portion of one of: the plurality of card guides; and, the electronic equipment enclosure.

11. The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 10, wherein the plurality of engagement elements are defined by the plurality of card guides.

12. The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 10, wherein the corresponding structure is defined by the electronic equipment enclosure.

13. The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the plurality of engagement elements is configured to operably interact with a self clinching tie mount.

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14. A card guide for use as part of a card cage and configured to interact with corresponding structure of an electronic equipment enclosure configured to receive one or more functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the card guide comprising:

a body having top and bottom sides and an end;

a plurality of engagement elements configured to engage the corresponding structure of the electronic equipment enclosure so that when the card guide is completely installed in the electronic equipment enclosure, the card guide is attached to the electronic equipment enclosure in a fastenerless arrangement, at least one engagement element being attached to each of the top and bottom sides of the body and the end of the body, and the at least one engagement element attached to the top side of the body being configured to operably interact with a self clinching tie mount.

15. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein the card guide substantially comprises one of: polycarbonate; and, a composition of carbon and polytetrafluoroethylene.

16. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of the engagement elements is integral with the body of the card guide.

17. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein the body defines at least one channel configured and arranged to receive an edge of a card when the card guide is installed in the electronic equipment enclosure.

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18. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein the body is configured to removably receive an adapter element, selective use of the adapter element facilitating definition of at least first and second card storage configurations.

19. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein the body defines a plurality of channels on at least one side, so as to facilitate definition of a plurality of card storage levels.

20. The card guide as recited in claim 14, wherein the card guide is configured for use in both vertical and horizontal card cages.

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